My discontented troops, and lay for hearts. [9]'Tis honour, with most lands to be at odds[2]; Soldiers should brook as little wrongs, as gods.

[Exit.

• and lay for hearts.

Tis honour, with most LANDS to be at odds;] But surely even In a soldier's sense of honour, there is very little in being at odds with all about him ; which shows rather a quarrelsome disposition than a valiant one. Besides, this was not Alcibiades's case. He was only fallen out with the Athenians. A phrase in the foregoing line will direct us to the right reading. " *I* will lay," says he, "for hearts;" which is a metaphor taken from card-play, and signifies to game deep and boldly. It is plain then the figure was continued in the following line, which should be read thus:

" 'Tis honour with most *hands* to be at odds ;" i. e. to fight upon odds, or at disadvantage; as he must do against the united strength of Athens; and this, by soldiers, is accounted *honourable.* Shakspeare uses the same metaphor on the same occasion, in Coriolanus :

" He *lurched* all swords." WAKBURTON. I think *hands* is very properly substituted for *lands.* In the foregoing line, for, *lay for hearts,* I would read *play* for *hearts.*

JOHNSON.

I do not conceive that to *lay for hearts* is a metaphor taken from card play, or that *lay* should be changed into *play.* We should now say, *to lay out for hearts,* i. e. the affections of the people; but *lay* is used singly, as it is here, by Jonson, in The Devil is an Ass, [Mr. Whalley's edition] vol. iv. p. 33:

" *Lay* for some pretty principality."

TYRWHITT. A kindred expression occurs in Marlowe's Lust's Dominion, 1657:

" He *takes up* Spanish *hearts* on trust, to pay them
"* When he shall finger Castile's crown. MALONE.

" Tis honour with most *lands* to be at odds;" I think, with Dr. Johnson, that *lands* cannot be right. To assert that it is honourable to fight with the *greatest* part of the *ixorld,* is veiy wild. I believe, therefore, our author meant that Alcibiades in his spleen against the Senate, from whom alone he has received any injury, should say:

" 'Tis honour with most *lords* to be at odds.

MALONE, I adhere to the old reading. It is surely more honourable to wrangle for a score of kingdoms, (as Miranda expresses it,) than to enter into quarrels with *lords*$_t$ or any other private adversaries„

STEEVENS.